

Good News Daily

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Sunday, October 14

1 Corinthians 4:9-16 *I appeal to you, then, be imitators of me.* (v.16 NRSV)

Jesus taught and demonstrated the standards and values that we are to follow. He taught by example, showing us how he treats people from various sections of society—politicians, the temple hierarchy, criminals, the mentally ill, the poor, others who were on the fringes of society—as well as people in general. His use of parables as a teaching tool is advantageous. I find there is often a basic meaning to the parables and then, with further research, a fuller knowledge becomes accessible. This helps me better understand how to apply the parable in my life.

Jesus presented us with the clear standards he lived by, that we can imitate until they become part of us. He sets a precise path for us to follow that has some flexibility built in, based on the individual and their unique relationship with God. I have chosen this path and still get lost or start going the wrong way. As long as I am open and strive to be close to Jesus, I can find my way back on the path.

Micah 6:1-8; Psalms 146, 147; Matthew 15:21-28

Monday, October 15

Luke 8:26-39 *“Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you.”* (v.39a)

When bad things happen, I can be quick to complain: “How will I get through this; it’s not fair.” I find this venting ineffective in helping me with my physical, emotional, or spiritual life.

I have seen God turn many terrible events into instruments of His love, which increases my faith. When I give thanks for this experience and pray to be open to how God will use me and what I can learn about living a fuller life, my perspective begins the shift. My negative view of the problem begins to change because I’m seeing this time of life with a different pair of glasses. This, in turn, impacts my state of well-being and my “attitude of gratitude” becomes stronger.

Sharing my thanksgiving for what God has done for me makes me grateful for the life I have been given. I find that if I start the day recalling 5 things for which I am grateful, I feel more equipped to be a servant of God and to be a reflection of God’s love to others.

Micah 7:1-7; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Acts 26:1-23

Tuesday, October 16

Jonah 1:1-17a *But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshis from the presence of the LORD.* (v.3a)

There have been times when I have run from or ignored the Lord, once for several years. I knew I needed some help sorting through my issues, which included things I had and had not done. I made a commitment to reunite with my Savior. With some concentrated help from a priest, and later a prayer counselor, I stopped running and found God's forgiveness and love.

I was overwhelmed with the experience of my love for others. The freedom I felt was glorious. I truly was seeing with different eyes. I am quite near sighted, but for the next couple of days my vision was so crisp. There was a family member who I found difficult to love. My whole attitude changed and I felt comfortable being with him as my brother in Christ.

I am more consistently grounded now, but when I get my priorities confused and don't put my relationship with God as my top priority, I can feel a dis-ease and know the actions I must take.

Psalms 5, 6; Acts 26:24—27:8; Luke 8:40-56

Wednesday, October 17

Luke 9:1-17 *And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.* (v.17)

In our family we have discussions about money and the appropriate use of it that go beyond tithing. We have the Scarcity and the Abundance views; the parable of the feeding of the 5,000 describes the Abundance view. Current resources are shared with gratitude for what God has given us. These resources expand. The more you share your resources with others, the more you are given to share.

I have experienced and observed many situations where this is true. I had always wanted to have a baby, and when we finally did my love for this child was so powerful I didn't think I could possibly have that much love left to give another baby. I discovered I did have ample love...for each of our children. And there was more and more love I found within myself that I could share. The more I was willing to share, the more I would have. My baskets of bread pieces continue to grow.

Jonah 1:17—2:10; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 27:9-26

Thursday, October 18

Psalm 18:1-20 *He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.* (v.19)

I am reminded of a card I received years ago that included "The Lord danced the day you were born." Within me these words create a joyful image—the heavenly host dancing and celebrating. God was dancing in joy because He was deeply satisfied that his work—me—was very good.

His unconditional love is for all of us. Yes, even those who have done horrible things. I learned through a wise prayer counselor that I must even pray for the person who has seriously hurt me or my child. I don't know how this is helpful or how people do it, but I trust that God does. To me it is part of the mystery of the Trinity. Most of us have not realized or experienced this profound love. I have seen it through my interactions with others and, at times, during prayer.

I love being in a worship service which includes liturgical dancers and others experiencing God's powerful love.

Jonah 3:1—4:11; Acts 27:27-44; Luke 9:18-27

Friday, October 19

Song of Solomon 1:2-8 *My mother's sons were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept!* (v.6b)

The woman who bemoaned that she had not been able to take care of her own vineyard, but her mother's sons wanted her to be keeper of other vineyards too, brought to mind the book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Based on universal values, Stephen Covey offers ways to become more effective in accomplishing goals and working interdependently with others.

One of his most profound principals is to "Sharpen the Saw." To me, he was saying don't forget to take care of yourself and grow or you won't be able to do your best in other areas of your life. When I ran for exercise, at times, I would not feel like going. I had many wonderful excuses that I could devise. So I developed a ritual that I would get my shoes on first, then decide. Once I went to the trouble of getting my shoes on, half my battle was won. Running was one way that helped me take care of my vineyard and "Sharpen the Saw."

Psalms 16, 17; Acts 28:1-16; Luke 9:28-36

Saturday, October 20

Acts 28:17-31 *"Go to this people and say, You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them."* (vv.26-27)

In my life I find that for many reasons, known and unknown, I will be closed-minded to a situation and what is happening. During these times, I've lost the energy to embrace opportunities for expanding my understanding of God's profound grace and his infinite love. I can understand only part of the issue. I'm not always open to listening to other people, and I can dismiss their point of view without really thinking or praying about it. My thoughts

and I grow dull, hard of hearing, and I shut my eyes or stick my head in the sand. It often means I have placed other priorities ahead of my relationship with Jesus.

My spiritual journey has been up and down, with a deep, strong core forming my ultimate faith. I find for myself it is critical to be disciplined with activity which enhances my relationship to God.

The Song of Solomon 1:9—2.7; Psalms 20, 21; Luke 9:37-50

by Jean Hess

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